

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, the applicant would like to thank the Examiner for (a) allowing claims 3-5 and 12-15, and (b) indicating that claims 2, 8, 9, 11, 17 and 18 are allowable if rewritten in independent form. At the time of the 14 February 2006 Office Action, claims 1-18 were pending. Claims 1, 7, 10, 11 and 16 have been cancelled in this paper, and thus claims 2-6, 8, 9, 12-15, 17 and 18 are presently pending in the application.

In addition to the allowed and allowable subject matter, claims 1, 6, 7, 10 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claims 2 and 6 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 3. Claim 8 has been amended to be in independent form and include the subject matter of original claim 1 and original claim 7. Additionally, claim 17 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 12 and include the subject matter of original claim 16. The amendments to the claims accordingly cancel rejected claims 1, 7, 10 and 16, and amend claims 2, 6, 8 and 17 to either depend from an allowed independent claim or be rewritten in independent form in a manner that was indicated to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing, the pending claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are patentable over the applied art. The applicant requests reconsideration of the application and respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned representative at (206) 359-3258.

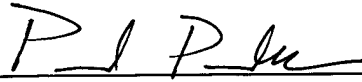
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE – Art Unit 3762

Attorney Docket No. 330498003US

Respectfully submitted,

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